

Cardiac Injury Due to an Utility Knife Hanging on the Chest Wall

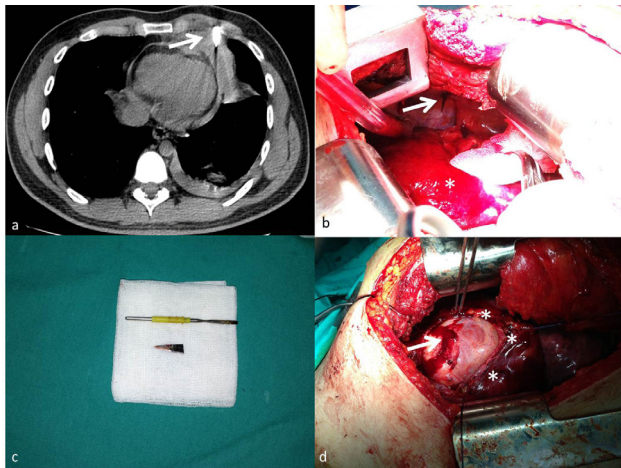
Eurasian Clinical and Analytical Medicine **Original Image**

Cardiac Injury Due to an Utility Knife

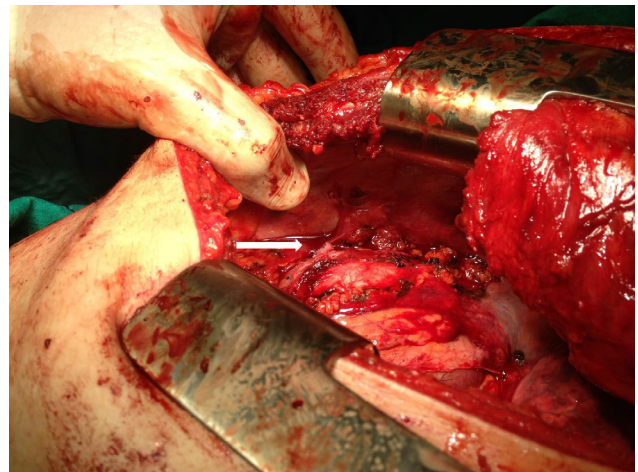
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Penetrating thoracic traumas concerning heart or major vascular injuries can be life-threatening. In our case, we aimed to present a patient with cardiac injury, who has remarkable images. Twenty-one year old male patient who is taking antipsychotic treatment had wounded himself in the anterior chest wall with an utility knife as attempting a suicide. Evaluation of the patient revealed a foreign body in the left hemithorax, left pleural effusion and pericardial effusion (Picture 1a). Left thoracotomy was performed because of the sharp-edged foreign body which is greater than 1,5 cm in the neighborhood of the heart. A sharp foreign body protruding from the anterior chest wall (Picture 1b,c), hematoma in pericardial fatty tissue (Picture 1b), pericardial effusion and haemothorax was detected on the exploration of the thoracic cavity. Following the removal of the foreign body, pericardial hematoma was evacuated by opening the pericardium. In the evaluation of myocardium, an injury approximately 1.5 cm in depth was detected millimeters away from the left anterior descending vein (Picture 1d). Damage was repaired with 6/0 pledged sutures (Picture 2). No complications had occurred in his follow-up and the patient was discharged afterwards.



Picture 1. Thorax tomography of the patient showing the foreign body (a). Foreign body in the thoracic wall (arrow) and hematoma in the pericardial fatty pad (asteriks) (b). Part of the utility knife removed from the thoracic wall (c). Injury of the myocardium (arrow) which is seen after pericardiotomy (asteriks)(d).



Picture 2. Repairment of the myocardium with pledged sutures (arrow).

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